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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
---------- 059081
O R 202030Z OCT 75
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4416
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0085
USCINCSO 0005
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 0685

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR BH GT UK
SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S VIEWS ON BELIZE RESOLUTION

REF: A) BELIZE 0682 B) STATE 246409

1. IN ADDITION TO INFO ON LOCAL UK MILITARY POSTURE (REPORTED REF A) GOVERNOR POSNETT HAD SOME COMMENTS ON STATE OF PROPOSED UNGA RESOLUTION ON BELIZE AND RELATED SUBJECT. (NOTE: H.E. HAS BEEN MEETING REGULARLY WITH PREMIER AND BELIZEAN CABINET (ALTHOUGH THIS IS UNUSUAL) IN COURSE OF LATTER'S CONSIDERATION OF GOB POLICY RE TACTICS AND SEMANTICS AT UN.

2. SELF-DETERMINATION VS INDEPENDENCE. GOVERNOR SAID HE AS WELL AS GOB REGARDED LANGUAGE ASSERTING APPLICABILITY OF PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO BE MILDER AND PRESUMABLY MORE PALATABLE TO GOG THAN LANGUAGE ENDORSING BELIZE'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE, SINCE CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WOULD AVOID PRE-JUDGING HOW THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE MIGHT DECIDE IN DETERMINING THEIR ALLEGIANCE, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT OPT FOR GUATEMALA. H.E. THOUGHT GOB WOULD HAVE NO
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DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING TO LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD AUTHENTICATE BELIZE'S

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ALLEGED RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE (ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS APPEALING TO THE UDP-OPPOSITION PARTY-WHO ALSO WANT INDEPENDENCE BUT WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THE UDP IS IN POWER).

3. GOB VIEWS ON INCLUDING REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA IN PROPOSED RESOLUTION. ASSERTION CONTAINED IN PARA 2B OF REF B (WHICH I SHOWED GOVERNOR) THAT "BELIZE WOULD PREFER NOT EVEN TO MENTION NEGOTIATIONS" IS, ACCORDING TO H.E. NO LONGER CORRECT. GOB NOW RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS LOGICALLY AND TACTICALLY NECESSARY FOR THE RESOLUTION TO CALL UPON THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE. NEGOTIATIONS, GOB REALIZES, WILL STILL BE NECESSARY IN AFTERMATH OF RESOLUTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE PROVE TO BE A PURELY HORTATORY DECLARATION.

4. SCENARIO ENVISAGED BY GOVERNOR. GOVERNOR SAID HE HAD TOLD CABINET THAT ONCE RESOLUTION OF SORT DESCRI ED ABOVE IS ADOPTED, THE AMERICANS THEN MIGHT BE PREVAILED UPON TO URGE THEIR GUATEMALAN FRIENDS TO ACCEPT DECDSION AND BEGIN NEGO-TIATIONS AIMED AT ARRIVING AT TERMS, CONDITIONS, CONCESSIONS, ETC., TO BE IMPOSED PRIOR TO ACTUAL CO SUMMATION OF INDEPEN-DENCE. THESE MIGHT TAKE VARIOUS FORMSN, BUT THE QUESTION OF THE LEGITIMACY OF BELIZE'S INDEPENDENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERED WITH FINALITY.

5. ROGERS REPLACES SHOMAN. H.E. SAID ROGERS WAS LEAVING FOR NEW YORK AND THAT TH AND SHOMAN WOULD HAVE ONLY A SHORT OVERLAP BEFORE SHOMAN RETURNED TO BELIZE. COMMENT. COMMUNI-CATIONS PROBLEMS BETWEEN BELMOPAN AND NEW YORK ARE FAIRLY OBVIOUS FROM HERE AND DOUBTLESS EXPLAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOB'S AND SHOMAN'S RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, E.G., PARA THREE ABOVE, AND MAY ALSO PARTLY EXPLAIN WHY SHOMAN IS BEING REPLACED.

6. USE OF THE WORD IMMINENT AS APPLIED TO BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. H.E. THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED TO ALL CONCERNED THAT IMMINENT IS NOT AN ADJECTIVE ONE CAN APPLY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY A FORMER BRITISH COLONY UNDER EVEN IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE OUTLINED THE TRANSITION PROCEDURE IN SOME DETAIL BEGINNING WITH THE REQUIREMENT FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE UK (WHICH WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF THE ENTIRE BELIZEAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN LONDON FOR CONFIDENTIAL

TWO OR THREE WEEKS), A CONSIDERABLE INTERVAL FOR LAWYERS TO CONVERT CONVENTION DECISIONS TO LEGAL LANGUAGE, ACCEP-TANCE OF RESULTING CONSTITUTION BY BELIZEAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND FINALLY ACCEPTANCE BY BRITISH PARLIAMENT. H.E. SAID RECORD TIME FOR THIS PROCESS STOOD AT NINE MONTHS. I OBSERVED THAT FOR ITS PURPOSES, GOG WOULD PROBABLY TEND TO VIEW DATE OF INITIAL DECISION TO OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE AS THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE. H.E. CONCEDED THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE

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BUT SAID GOG SHOULD REALIZE, AS DID GOB, THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF A SUDDEN FAIT ACCOMPLI EITHER BY PREMIER PRICE OR HMG. THE MOVE TO INDEPENDENCE WAS INESCAPABLY GRADUAL RATHER THAN SUDDEN.
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